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Die Steuern: Allgemeiner Theil. Von DR. ALBERT SCHAEFFLE. (Hand- und Lehrbuch der Staatswissenschaften. II. Abtheilung: Finanzwissenschaft. 2. Band.) Leipzig, C. L. Hirschfeld, 1895. — xiv, 420 pp.

Die Steuern: Besonderer Theil. Von DR. ALBERT SCHAEFFLE. (Hand- und Lehrbuch der Staatswissenschaften. II. Abtheilung: Finanzwissenschaft. 3. Band.) Leipzig, C. L. Hirschfeld, 1897. — xvi, 663 pp.

Dr. Schäffle has been known to all students of fiscal problems since the appearance in 1880 of his important work on *Die Grundsätze der Steuerpolitik*. Of his other contributions to social and political science it is not necessary to speak, further than to say that in many and varied fields of scientific as well as of political activity he stands among the foremost writers and administrators on the European continent. The two volumes which are here reviewed quite maintain his great reputation: they are exact, incisive, clear and up to date; and for the advanced student they present many points of view worthy of consideration. Yet, when the works are carefully analyzed, it will be found that most of the fundamental ideas are already contained, although, of course, in less systematic form, in the earlier work of 1880; and, to the average Anglo-Saxon reader, the disadvantages of the scheme of devoting two large volumes to the general and the special part of taxation will be more apparent than the advantages. The Germans love to be "*gründlich*" at all costs, and to devote a great deal of space in their scientific treatises to what impresses the practical man as savoring a little of metaphysics; and this we see especially in the general part of Dr. Schäffle's work. Another weakness of the work is inseparable from the method of treatment. The second volume, or special part, really depends, in many of the chief divisions, upon the discussion of the more fundamental problems in the first part. As a consequence we have a considerable amount of repetition. Most readers will therefore find the second volume, which contains in compressed form no inconsiderable portion of the first volume, at once more interesting and more valuable.

In the second volume the most important discussion is that of the classification of taxes, for upon this depends much of the distinctive value of the author's treatment. Dr. Schäffle divides taxes into direct and indirect; but he takes strong exception to the commonly accepted theory that it is only the direct taxes which correspond to the "*faculty*" of the individual. According to him the indirect taxes accomplish the

same result, but in a different way. The direct taxes are intended, in his opinion, to reach the general or average taxable capacity of the individual, while the indirect taxes are intended to reach the "actual" or "special" or "individualized" ability. He is able to reach this conclusion, however, only by counting among the indirect taxes, in addition to the ordinary taxes on commodities and exchange, what he calls the *Bereicherungs-steuern*, including the taxes on inheritances, on unearned increment and on lotteries, as well as some others not usually put into that category, like sumptuary taxes or so-called direct expenditure taxes. His whole discussion of indirect taxation thus becomes highly artificial, and by this arbitrary classification loses much of its merit. It is not likely that English or American writers will adopt his classification.

In the general discussion of principles Dr. Schäffle is quite up to date. He lays stress, for instance, on the modern problems connected with double taxation and with the treatment of corporations. To Germans the books will be of value because of the special importance attached to Swiss and American experience. For the average American reader there is still a great deal that is only of very secondary interest; but the advanced student will find in almost every chapter of the two works some new food for thought. They are distinctly able works of an able man.

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN.

Die Persönlichen Steuern vom Einkommen, verbunden mit Ertrags- oder mit Vermögenssteuern. Mit besonderer Beziehung auf württembergische Verhältnisse. Von FRIEDRICH JULIUS NEUMANN. Tübingen, Verlag der H. Laup'schen Buchhandlung, 1896. — vi, 277 pp.

Professor Neumann's monographs follow one another with surprising rapidity. His work on the reform of local taxation in Saxony had scarcely been published when a new income-tax bill in Württemberg led him to make an equally careful study of this and related forms of taxation. Where questions of taxation are concerned, he is a believer in special investigations with reference to existing conditions in particular places, as compared with either the deductive or the exclusively historical method.

Beginning with an historical chapter in which he points out a preference for taxes on product in the south and for personal income taxes in the north of Germany, Professor Neumann proceeds next to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the former. The